

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~disposable~~, trial-use power toothbrush, comprising:

a trial power toothbrush designed to emulate the performance of a corresponding commercially available power toothbrush; and

a power system to provide power for the trial power toothbrush for only a selected short trial use period of time which is long enough, approximately sixty brushings, that the user becomes accommodated to the operation of the trial power toothbrush and can evaluate the performance thereof, but is substantially less than a normal period of use, wherein the trial power toothbrush approximates the operation of the corresponding commercial toothbrush for said selected period of time and ~~wherein when the trial power toothbrush is no longer operative following said selected period of time, the trial power toothbrush may be disposed of.~~; and

means preventing further operation of the power toothbrush at the end of said selected period of time.

2. (Original) An article of claim 1, wherein the power system includes a non-rechargeable battery.

3. (Currently Amended) An article of claim 2, wherein the ~~power system preventing means~~ includes a power control circuit which in combination with the battery controls the operation of the trial power toothbrush and terminates operation thereof following said selected period of time.

4. (Original) An article of claim 2, wherein the non-

rechargeable battery has a power discharge characteristic such that at the end of said short period of time, the voltage output from the battery is insufficient to operate the trial power toothbrush.

5. (Original) An article of claim 3, wherein the power control circuit controls the power to operate the trial toothbrush at a level approximately that of the corresponding commercial toothbrush over said short period of time, based on the voltage output of the battery over the short period of time, including means for compensating for any decrease in voltage output of the battery over the short period of time.

6. (Original) An article of claim 3, wherein the power control circuit provides lower than full power output to drive the toothbrush for a portion of time at the beginning of the short period of time so as to accommodate the user to operation of the toothbrush.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~disposable~~, trial-use power personal care appliance, comprising:

a trial power personal care appliance designed to emulate the performance of a corresponding commercially available personal care appliance; and

a power system to provide power for the trial power appliance for only a selected short period of time which is long enough, approximately sixty uses, that the user becomes accommodated to the operation of the trial power appliance and can evaluate the performance thereof, but substantially less than a normal period of use, wherein the trial power appliance approximates the operation of the corresponding commercial appliance for said selected period of

~~time and wherein when the trial power appliance is no longer operative following said selected period of time, the trial power appliance may be disposed of; and~~

means preventing further operation of the personal care appliance at the end of said selected period of time.

8. (Original) An article of claim 7, wherein the power system includes a non-rechargeable battery.

9. (Currently Amended) An article of claim 8, wherein the ~~power system preventing means~~ includes a power control circuit which in combination with the battery controls the operation of the trial power appliance and terminates operation thereof following said selected period of time.

10. (Withdrawn) A method for introduction of a power toothbrush to a potential customer for a limited period of time, comprising the steps of:

providing to a user a trial power toothbrush designed to emulate the performance of a corresponding commercially available power toothbrush, wherein the trial power toothbrush includes a power system which provides power for the trial power toothbrush for only a selected short period of time, but which is long enough that the user can become accommodated to the operation of the trial power toothbrush and can evaluate the performance thereof, wherein the trial power toothbrush approximates the operation of the corresponding commercial toothbrush for said selected period of time; and

providing information to the user concerning use and disposal of the trial power toothbrush.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 10, wherein the power system includes a non-rechargeable battery.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 11, wherein the power system includes a power control circuit which in combination with the battery controls the operation of the trial power toothbrush and terminates operation thereof following said selected period of time.

13. (New) A trial-use power toothbrush, comprising:
a trial power toothbrush designed to emulate the performance of a corresponding commercially available power toothbrush;

a power system to provide power for the trial power toothbrush for only a selected short trial use period of time which is long enough that the user becomes accommodated to the operation of the trial power toothbrush and can evaluate the performance thereof, but is substantially less than a normal period of use, wherein the trial power toothbrush approximates the operation of the corresponding commercial toothbrush for said selected period of time; and

means preventing further operation of the power toothbrush at the end of said selected trial use period of time.

14. (New) An article of claim 1, wherein the power toothbrush is conveniently disposable following the trial use thereof.